



National Marine
Manufacturers Association



July 8, 2014

The Honorable Kay Hagan
521 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hagan and Senator Murkowski:

As supporters of the bipartisan *Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper Conservation Act* in both the House and Senate, we are writing to respectfully urge adoption of a Red Snapper amendment to your Sportsmen's Act pending on the Senate floor. It is vital that a Red Snapper amendment be enacted in the 113th Congress to ensure the long-term conservation of Gulf of Mexico red snapper while concurrently improving the economies of Gulf States.

With a fishery characterized as more robust than ever before, federal management methods have nevertheless resulted in inexplicably and severely shortened recreational red snapper seasons, causing substantial harm to the economies of Gulf coast communities. Consequently, all five Gulf States now are non-compliant with federal regulations on red snapper in state waters and have requested that state management of the red snapper fishery replace the current federal management.

State management would result in improved management of Gulf red snapper for the betterment of the fishery and the entire regional economy in which recreational fishing contributes more than \$10 billion in annual economic activity to the five Gulf States.

On behalf of America's recreational anglers, we respectfully request that you support a Red Snapper amendment to the Sportsmen's Act.

Sincerely,

Mike Nussman, President and CEO
American Sportfishing Association

Jeff Angers, President
Center for Coastal Conservation

Patrick Murray, President
Coastal Conservation Association

Steve Stock, President
Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation

Rob Kramer, President
International Game Fish Association

Thom Dammrich, President
National Marine Manufacturers Association

Ellen Peel, President
The Billfish Foundation